

Halifax Regional Municipality Budget 2011-12 Snapshot TRANSIT

Making improvements to the municipality's transportation network, including transit, is one of Regional Council's focus areas. This investment will help to build on the continued success of Metro Transit and allow us to work towards the long term goals laid out in the HRM Regional Plan and the increased reliance on public transit to accommodate a greater portion of transportation trips in the region by 2031.

2010/2011 Review

As the primary transportation service provider in the Halifax Regional Municipality, Metro Transit delivered 818,800 scheduled service hours in 2010/11, including 756,200 hours of bus service, 9,300 hours of ferry service, and 53,300 hours of Access-A-Bus service. 2010/11 marked a major milestone as service began operation at the new Ragged Lake Transit Centre in late August 2010, providing approximately 40% of all bus service. In total in 2010/11, Metro Transit provided approximately 588,600 hours of bus service out of the Burnside Transit Centre, and 167,600 hours of bus service out of Ragged Lake Transit Centre. Additionally Metro Transit introduced more new service hours in 2010/11 than any previous year, including with the operation of new routes # 8 Waterfront, # 22 Armdale and #57 Russell Lake, as well as extra trips and improved service on many other routes.

Looking to 2011/2012

Metro Transit will be receiving ten new Accessible Low Floor (ALF) articulated buses in 2011/12. Five of these vehicles are proposed for use as replacement vehicles, while the remaining five are proposed for service increases and improvements. Service improvements proposed in this year's plan include:

- A new route serving Larry Uteck Boulevard (Route 90) on the border of Bedford South/Halifax to Downtown Halifax, which will provide service seven days per week, from approximately 6:00am to 11:00pm. This route will serve the growing high density development along Larry Uteck Boulevard and will also provide an often requested connection between the Halifax Ferry Terminal and the Hospitals on University Avenue.

- Initiation of the new Bridge Terminal in Dartmouth (Nantuket Avenue). This key hub is used by routes that provide service throughout most of HRM's service area, making it a truly regional transit facility.
- Following the success of re-introducing the 30-series routes as Urban Express in 2010-11, routes 84, 85 and 86 will be introduced as Urban Expresses. Urban Express routes allow the provision of low cost express service to Downtown Halifax without relying on Park and Ride lots to generate ridership.
- 300 Tantallon MetroX service will be expanded to a new Park & Ride lot in Shel Drake Lake. This will provide a direct connection to Downtown Halifax via Highway 103.
- Changes to Access-A-Bus will include the service provision boundaries being expanded from 610m to 1000m of a fixed route bus stop, which is consistent with the buffer for local transit taxation; and the advance booking window being reduced from 7 days to forty-eight hours, effective summer 2011.
- Initial design work for a fourth Harbour Ferry.
- Other improvements will include increasing Accessible Low Floor services, and improving overall schedule adherence.